



BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS FOR THE PARENTS OF INDIANA STUDENTS WITH DIABETES

Know Your Rights

Three federal laws provide protections to students against discrimination in school: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Contact the school's 504/IDEA Coordinator to ensure that your child is properly evaluated for services under these laws. Upon determination of eligibility, a Section 504 Plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), or other written education plan should be developed to implement the diabetes care plan that has been prescribed by the student's health care team, referred to by Indiana law as a diabetes management and treatment plan (DMTP). Recent amendments to the ADA make it clearer than ever that students with diabetes are protected under Section 504 and ADA.

In 2007, a **state law** was passed in **Indiana** that provides additional protections to students with diabetes in public schools. The law requires:

- School principals to work with the school nurse to designate and arrange for the training of a small group of school personnel (called volunteer health aides) who will provide diabetes care to the student when a school nurse is not available.
- Comprehensive diabetes care training for school nurses.
- Comprehensive diabetes care training for volunteer health aides.
- Schools to ensure that needed care can be provided for students at their neighborhood school – a student may not be assigned to another school simply because of a lack of a health aide or nurse at a local school.
- Implementation of the student's DMTP through the development of an individualized health care plan that must contain all DMTP components.
- Diabetes self-care and management for students capable of doing so.

Write It Down

To make sure your child's diabetes needs are met at school, you'll need to make sure you have a DMTP from your child's clinician and use it to develop a written education plan that provides legal protection for your child, such as a 504 Plan or IEP, that specifies the who, what, when and where for each aspect of diabetes care. A DMTP, an individualized health care plan (IHP) or other health care plan is not a substitute for a Section 504 Plan or IEP.

Set Up a Meeting

Contact the school nurse and school administrator to set up a meeting to discuss your child's needs and how needs will be met before school starts or before your child returns to school after diagnosis. Determine who is responsible for coordinating and performing care for your child's diabetes.

Be a Resource for Your School Nurse

Although it's the school's responsibility to provide training to school personnel to meet your child's needs, you may have contacts in the diabetes community who can help. Also, donate expired supplies for training.

Send Supplies

Make sure the school has what it needs to help your child. Provide diabetes equipment, supplies, and snacks. Make sure your child wears medical identification jewelry.

NEED MORE INFORMATION OR HELP? WANT TO TALK ABOUT A SPECIFIC PROBLEM SUCH AS YOUR CHILD BEING REQUIRED TO ATTEND ANOTHER SCHOOL TO HAVE DIABETES NEEDS MET OR THE LACK OF TRAINED SCHOOL PERSONNEL AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?

THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION IS READY TO HELP.

CALL 1-800-DIABETES TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION OR TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S LEGAL ADVOCATE ABOUT A SPECIFIC SCHOOL DISCRIMINATION PROBLEM.

ALSO, CHECK OUT www.diabetes.org/safeatschool.